**Railway Contract of Service for Providing Bendings Etc.**

3023. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract of service for providing beddings, pillows and blankets in AC sleepers is given to private parties in some trains like the AP Express and others;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the parties provide very poor quality and unhygenic service;

(c) whether there are several complaints in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve these services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Some complaints have been received.

(d) Zonal Railways have been instructed that the existing contracts should not be renewed and no fresh contracts be given for supply of bed rolls in AC Sleeper Class and the supply of bed rolls will be managed departmentally.

**Non-Availability of Urea to the Farmers**

3024. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are not getting urea in the open market and through cooperative societies;

(b) if so, the complaints received by Government from each State in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to provide urea to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) During the current Rabi season, no specific and verifiable case of non-availability of urea to farmers in open market and through cooperative societies has been received in this Ministry.

**Failure of Elementary Education Programme**

*3025. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Elementary Education Programme launched by Government has not proved successful;

(b) if so, the main cause of its failure;

(c) the percentage of target achieved in each State after it was launched, till date; and

(d) the amount given to each State for this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Government have successfully launched a District Primary Education Programme in 1994 to achieve the objectives of Universalisation of Elementary Education.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The programme is being implemented in 11 States. The details of State-wise grants relased under the Programme so far are given in the attached

statement. *(See* below). Major components of the Programme include construction of classroom and new school building, setting up of early childhood education centres; strengthening of SCERTs and DIETs; setting up of Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres: teacher training and development of teaching learning material and special interventions for education of girls and SCsSTs.

**Statement**

*Giving Details of State-wise Grants Released so far Under District Primary Education Programme*

| S. No. | State | Amount in crores |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Assam | 26.27 |
| 2. | Haryana | 23.41 |
| 3. | Kerala | 26.98 |
| 4. | Karnataka | 35.62 |
| 5. | Maharastra | 46.01 |
| 6. | Tamil Nadu | 29.26 |
| 7. | Madhya Pradesh | 94.10 |
| 8. | Andhra Pradesh | 6.00 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 7.29 |
| 10. | Orissa | 8.73 |
| 11. | Gujarat | 4.69 |
| | TOTAL: | 308.36 |

**U.G.C. Expenditure on Research Projects**

3026. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the UGC spending on research project for last five years; and

(b) the details of the research projects undertaken and completed during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) According to the information furnished by U.G.C, the following grants have been paid to universities and colleges for implementation of research projects during the last five years:

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Year | Grant paid |
|---|---|
| 1991-92 | 421.18 |
| 1992-93 | 441.88 |
| 1993-94 | 600.97 |
| 1994-95 | 1014.95 |
| 1995-96 | 759.95 |

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Test for Clerks and Peons in South Central Railway**

3027. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr it is a fact that the South Central Railway, Secunderabad, canducted a test for clerical and peon posts for the wards of the deceased employees on compassionate grounds some two or three months back; and

(b) if so, how many wards of the deceased employees have been selected for the above mentioned posts with their names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) As a result of assessment of suitability for compassionate appointments in Group 'C' and Group 'D' of the wards of deceased employees made during the period 1.9.96